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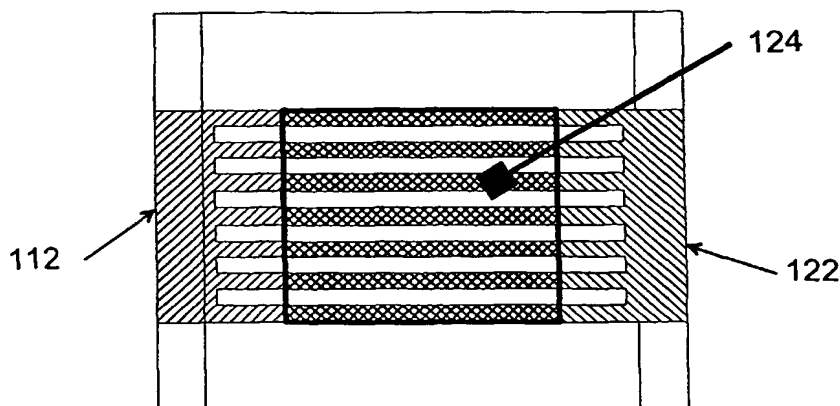
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(54) Title: FAST OPTICAL SHUTTER



(57) **Abstract:** A liquid crystal optical shutter is disclosed that possesses an aperture window (124) comprising of first and second electrode patterns (112; 122) arranged on respective planar substrates. The first and second substrates are provided at a predetermined mutual distance. The electrode patterns each comprises a series of row electrodes, wherein the series of row electrodes of the first electrode pattern are aligned at an angle of less than 45 degrees with the series of row electrodes of the second electrode pattern so as to create a high internal electrical resistance in series with any point in the liquid

crystal optical shutter. It is thereby provided a high internal electrical resistance in series with any point in the liquid crystal optical shutter whilst the overall external resistance of the optical shutter is maintained at a low level, significantly reducing the occurrence of electrical sparking.